(b) if so, whether Government would introduce any measure to stop ice-cream producers from using synethetic vanilla, which is harmful to health; and

(c) whether Government has noticed the fact the price of natural vanilla is coming down these days?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Synethetic Vanilla (Ethyl vanillin) used as flavouring agent in foods has been evaluated by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives which indicate no safety concern at current level of intake when used as a flavouring agent.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 requires the label of ice-cream containing synthetic vanilla shall mention "contains artificial flavouring substance" under the list 'of ingredients.

(c) The Directorate of Economic & Statistics (Price Divisions), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, do not collect information on the price of Vanilla.

Nodal agency to ensure the treatment to needy patients

1261. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIIMS and Safdarjung hospitals etc. have formed a nodal agency to ensure that needy patients are not denied treatment on the excuse of bed shortage;

(b) if so, details of nodal agency so formed, if any;

(c) whether a number of barracks have been vacated and if so, what is the proposal to utilize those barracks lying idle;

(d) whether patients are discharged a day or two after surgery and are called again to come for removal of stitches and checking; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving discharge to them without removal of stitches?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The High Court of Delhi vide its order dated 31.10.2007 has directed the Director-General of Health Services to form a nodal agency of the AIIMS and Safdarjung hospital. The modalities are being finalized by the DGHS in consultation with the two hospitals.

(d) and (e) The practice of early mobilization and discharge of patients is followed and encourage according to the internationally accepted guidelines.

Implementation of Prof. Thorat Committee

1262. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures are being planned for implementation of the Prof. Thorat Committee recommendation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?